



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Office of the Director

RL:0447A

HB 2165-82
RELATING TO LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Statement for
House Committee on
Finance
Public Hearing - 9 March 1982

The attached statement on HB 2165-82 was submitted to House Committee on Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection, public hearing - 19 February 1982. As this bill has not been amended, the statement is still applicable.



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Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 19 February 1982

By
Tom Bauer, Radiation Safety Office
Keith Chave, Oceanography
Diana Shepherd, Environmental Center

HB 2165-82 proposes that the State of Hawaii enter into the Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, joining with the other states in accordance with the terms of the compact. This statement has been reviewed by the University of Hawaii Environmental Center, however, it does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

The above bill has been reviewed, and we completely support the enactment into law. The University of Hawaii has employed radioactive tracers since the 1950's. The growth of the diverse variety of activities in the State which generate low-level radioactive wastes including research, industrial processes, and medical practices, has been intense. The cost of shipment and the consideration of restricted allotments at commercial burial sites are major areas of concern. The management scheme for low-level radioactive waste must be reevaluated if the University's vital research depending on the use of radioactive materials is to continue.

At present, disposal at the Washington state site is our most economical choice for commercial burial. The Northwest Interstate compact would both assure our continued use of the site and intensified effort among the member states to locate alternative solutions acceptable to all the states.